DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 435 444 PS 027 927

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TITLE	The Good Son: Shaping the Moral Development of Our Boys and Young Men. A Complete Parenting Plan.
ISBN	ISBN-0-87477-985-5
PUB DATE	1999-00-00
NOTE	392p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Jeremy P. Tarcher/Putnam, 405 Murray Hill Pkwy., East Rutherford, NJ 07073, (U.S., $24.95; Canada, $34.99). Web site: <http://www.penguinputnam.com>.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom (055)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Adolescents; *Child Rearing; Childhood Needs; *Children; Developmental Stages; Emotional Development; *Males; *Moral Development; Moral Values; *Parent Child Relationship; Parent Role; Values Education

ABSTRACT

Based on the assertion that current American culture neglects essential building blocks for males' character development, this book calls for a moral and ethical revival in the ways boys are raised. It is a parenting plan that seeks to protect and nurture male development from birth to adulthood. The book's first two chapters explore the complications to moral development brought about by male hormones, brain systems, and social acculturation; and how the culture neglects moral development in boys. The remainder of the book details the Good Son Parenting Plan, a practical child rearing blueprint for parents of boys in the Age of Obedience (birth to 6 years old), Age of Convention (7 to 12 years old), and Age of Moral Intuition (13 to 18 years old). For these three "developmental episodes," the parenting plan provides information on what is considered normal, discusses developmental challenges, and provides suggestions for how family, school, and the larger culture can raise boys well. The ultimate goal of the suggestions is boys' development of 10 moral competencies considered to be the bedrock of compassion: decency, fairness, empathy, self-sacrifice, respect, loyalty, service, responsibility, honesty, and honor. Topics include the loss of moral literacy among many boys, the importance of a spiritual community for boys, the importance of immediate consequences for misbehavior, the need for discipline and rules, and the protection of boys from moral risks. Stories of individual boys illustrate important points. Two appendices list books and movies that stimulate moral development in boys and additional resources. (Contains notes and an index.) (KB)

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